

Saskatchewan's Welcome to the Newcomer

Fertile Lands, a Health-Giving Climate and
all the Advantages of a Progressive
Province are Offered Him

Address by

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Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, Canada.



Snipe Lake District, Saskatchewan, Sept. 8, 1915. (84)
Oats, Sec. 10-25-23 W. 3rd.
Yield—100 bushels per acre.

WITH true western hospitality Saskatchewan offers a full share of all that she possesses to those who are willing to sever old ties and form new associations. Let us see what she offers.

PURCHASING OR PIONEERING?

Ten years ago the bulk of the homestead land in Saskatchewan was unclaimed and much of it indeed unsurveyed. To-day very little free grant land remains in the open plains region in the southern portion of the province. But despite this fact, the prospective settler suffers no handicap as compared with his predecessors who homesteaded a fertile quarter section of Saskatchewan wheat land. If he wish "to homestead" he will find a large tract of extremely fertile land along the northern border of settlement from which to make a selection. If he be possessed with a desire to grow wheat, the area to which I refer will not suit him as well as the open prairie. But to those who plan to pursue live stock farming rather than grain growing, and wish to build attractive homes in this new land, no more suitable location can be found. Soil fertility, natural shelter, timber and woodland for building and for fuel, water, pastures of luxurious native grass and peavine, all these combined may be had in the central part of this big province. But not alone in this locality are free homesteads available. In parts of the southwest are tracts which may be homesteaded, although the quality of the unoccupied land is second or third class, the best of it having already been selected either as free homesteads or as pre-emptions.

But if our new settlers wish to continue where others have already reached they may buy improved farms in well settled districts at moderate prices. Distance from market, the quality of soil, the character and availability of water supply, the development of the district with respect to schools, rural phones, churches and hospitals, will determine the price to be paid, but from \$25.00 to \$50.00 per acre will indicate the range of values. Unimproved land may be had at from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per acre less than these figures, and it will be found as profitable to buy land in settled districts as it used to be to homestead. The early pioneer paid for his land in settlement duties and years of experience. He did not immediately enjoy the benefit of good roads, railway facilities, schools, churches, and the social advantages which we now possess, but had to wait and work and pay for them. The purchaser of to-day finds these advantages to compensate for his greater financial obligation, and those who join communities possessing these things can afford to pay well for the privilege of sharing in them; as they no less than the productiveness of the soil largely determine its value.

Let us see what has been accomplished by our people.

ROADS AND RAILWAYS.

Perhaps no fact carries a stronger or more general appeal in a new country than the need for transportation facilities. The pioneers, almost without exception, preceded the railways, with only a winding prairie trail to lead them back to civilization. When I came to the west there was not a foot of railway west of Manitoba. Even in 1905 there were only 1,552 miles in operation. But since that date construction has gone on apace until the 6,101 miles of railway in Saskatchewan now gridiron the south half of the province in every direction, giving a mileage per capita second to no other Canadian province, and a gross mileage second only to Ontario.

Secondary only to railways as a factor in transportation are good roads. The first stage in the development of good roads in Saskatchewan was reached when the populated areas were formed into local improvement districts, the second was the establishment of rural municipalities in 1909, and the third was the inauguration of a good road policy in 1912 under which some \$6,000,000 have been expended by the board of highway commissioners and the system of public highways has been greatly extended. Not only in the actual construction of roads has progress been made; the interest stimulated in the maintenance in good condition of public highways is a factor of the greatest importance.

Closely allied with transportation is the question of markets. The history of the early days of the grain trade in Western Canada and the part the western farmers have taken in the framing of laws to improve conditions have been the theme of many a clever article. The pioneers grappled with grain marketing conditions, which were most unsatisfactory to them. But the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, the Canada Grain Act and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company have so far revolutionized conditions in Saskatchewan that the selling of grain is on a better basis than before.

While the grain trade was being organized the Dairy Commissioner for Saskatchewan was busy on a policy for the promotion of the dairy industry. The fruits of that policy are now being abundantly harvested in the substantial development of the industry on a safe and profitable basis. Two-thirds of the creameries in Saskatchewan are cooperative, and are operated by the dairy branch of the Department of Agriculture. Milk and cream are graded and bought on a quality basis, export butter is graded and marketed by the dairy branch, express in cream is paid by the creameries, so that the service of the cooperative creameries is available to every Saskatchewan farmer with transportation facilities. There were four cooperative creameries operated by the dairy branch in 1907, with an output of 66,246 pounds. Fifteen operated in 1915, manufactured 2,012,410 pounds. In the early days the government loaned

money to finance the purchase of cream and the operating expenses of the co-operative creameries which desired it, but as they become strong enough financially these duties are being assumed locally.

OTHER COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES

While the grain trade and the creamery business are well organised there is much to do in the development of markets for other kinds of farm produce. Much has, however, been accomplished through the cooperative organization branch of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture. Some 393 cooperative associations were organized in 1914 and 1915, many of which have actively engaged in the cooperative marketing of live stock and other farm products. The director of cooperative organization undertook in 1914 to market wool cooperatively and that year sold 69,404 pounds at 17 cents per pound, while farmers with small flocks had previously obtained only a little more than half that price. In 1915 there were 148,339 pounds marketed at a net price of 23.66 cents per pound. This year the quantity was nearly 200,000 pounds and the price realized about twice that realized in 1914.

The poultry business also received the attention of the cooperative branch in 1915 and some 25,000 pounds of poultry was marketed at a price 50 per cent higher than most of our farmers realized. The birds were shipped alive and were killed, dressed and graded at a Government depot. Finances provided by the Government make possible the payment of an advance of about two thirds of the value of the wool and poultry handled by the cooperative organization branch, and when the product is sold the balance after deducting the cost of handling is paid to the producers on the same principle as is followed in the operation of the cooperative creameries by the Government.

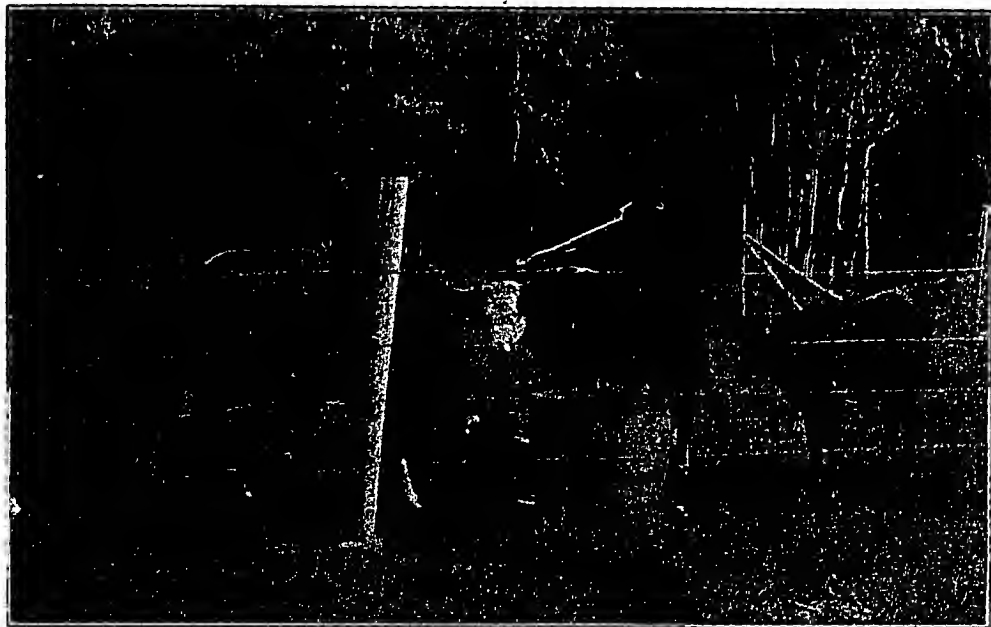
LIVE STOCK ON CREDIT

There are many problems in connection with the marketing of live stock which lend themselves to improvement and the government of Saskatchewan recently appointed a Royal Commission to investigate the marketing of Saskatchewan live stock and recommend remedies for such evils as they should find to exist. That Commission has not yet completed its investigation, but it is hoped that its work will do as much for the live stock industry as was accomplished by the elevator commission of 1910 in organizing handling facilities for Saskatchewan grain producers.

Worthy farmers in Saskatchewan are able to buy cattle, sheep and hogs from the government on credit terms. By the provisions of the Live Stock

Purchase and Sale Act the raising of the sum of \$500,000 is authorized, to be used for the purchase of live stock to be sold on credit terms to farmers who come properly recommended by the officers of their agricultural society, creamery company or grain growers' association. This plan has been in operation for three years and has given much satisfaction.

Those who laid the foundations of our excellent system of primary education performed a great work. The first school district was organized in Moose Jaw in 1884. The first 500 school districts in the whole of Saskatchewan and Alberta



were organized by the year 1899, a period of fifteen years. The next 500 were organized in the same area in five years, and during the nine years from 1906 to 1915 there were organized in Saskatchewan alone 2,335 schools, an average of one each school day. There are now nearly 4,000 school districts in Saskatchewan. The superstructure, a system of secondary education, followed with the establishment of high schools and collegiate institutes, and in 1908 a provincial university was organized under the presidency of Dr. Walter C. Murray. In Saskatchewan the means for imparting education are wonderfully complete, and while improvements is possible and will follow, we may quite justifiably be proud of our achievement in this regard.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

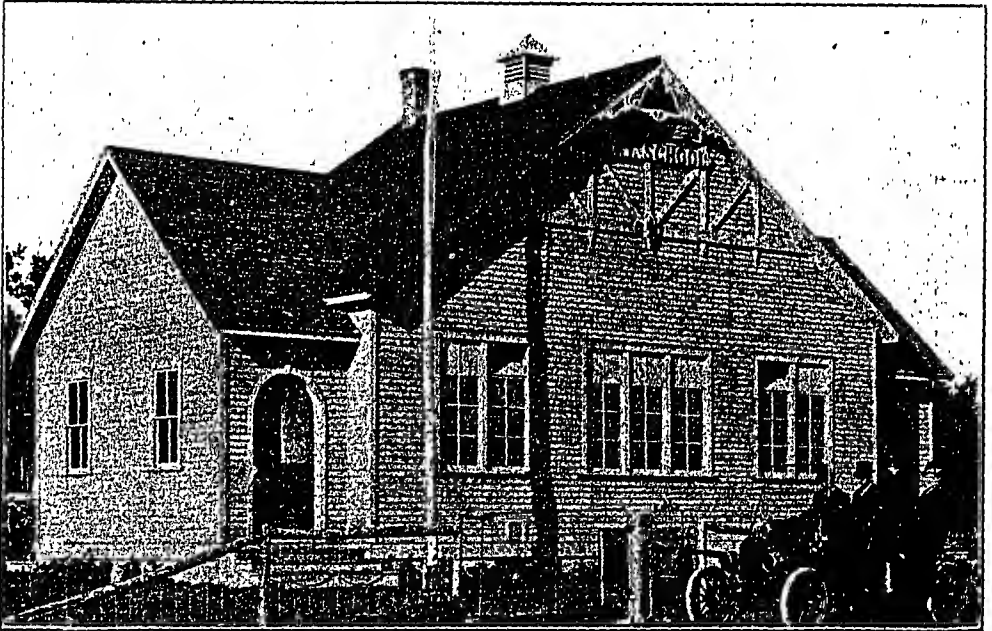
A description of our educational institutions would be incomplete without reference to our provincial agricultural college, which is a part of the university. The college possesses an excellent farm and suitable building for carrying on its work, which followed the lines of research, teaching and extension. The extension department is entrusted with the task of carrying to Saskatchewan farmers the results of the investigations which promise to promote better farming. The work of agricultural societies, including exhibitions, stallion shows, plowing matches, seed fairs and standing crops competitions is directed by the extension department, which also organizes short courses in agricultural and domestic science. The better farming trains, operated annually under the joint auspices of the Department of Agriculture, the College of Agriculture and the railways, are important factors in the educational work in behalf of better agriculture. The homemakers' clubs, with 160 branches, organized by the College of Agriculture, contribute largely to the enrichment of rural life. Experimental farms, under the operation of the Dominion Government, have done valuable work in Saskatchewan.

These agencies, which express the refinement and perfection of agricultural knowledge, are at the service of the new comer. But important as they are, they do not grip the imagination in just the same way as the work of the pioneers in solving the problem of soil tillage and moisture conservation, which changed crop uncertainty into a definite expectation. But the vital point to remember is that this information, which is now the common property of new settlers, was found by the pioneer only after years of trial and disappointment; it was found by the men who paid their land in experience, but the new settler who pays cash for his land benefits equally; and this item alone removes the apparent disparity between the pioneer homesteader of yesterday and the cash buyer of to-day.

Time forbids more than the mere mention of a few of the other measures devised by the Saskatchewan Government for the assistance of agriculture and the enrichment of rural life, such as free labor bureaus under government direction, the selection of suitable farm laborers and domestic servants in Great Britain, the securing and distribution of harvest labor, assistance in the organization and construction of rural telephones, and the circulation of travelling libraries. But the new comer may be assured that in Saskatchewan he will find a progressive people, served by a government desirous of giving efficient and progressive administration.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Some may be inclined to regard the west as materialistic and interested primarily in wheat and real estate. But the interest in the deep and abiding things of life is proven not only by the attention given to education, but equally by the prompt establishment of some form of church service in even the more remote settlements and the erection of churches at the earliest opportunity. The establishment of public hospitals proclaim alike the humane sentiments



and progressiveness of our people, and the provision made by the government for the care of neglected children and those suffering from mental disorders indicates that the people of Saskatchewan do not fail in their duty to the unfortunate.

In temperance reform Saskatchewan stands at the fore front. A year ago the open bar was abolished and public drinking of intoxicants prohibited by law. Financially, Saskatchewan people are gainers to the extent of \$10,000,000 annually by the suppression of the liquor traffic, and we shall measure the benefits, social, moral and spiritual, that accrue from it?

Some of the things, then, which Saskatchewan desires to share with the new comer are her wonderfully fertile lands, her health-giving climate, excellent transportation facilities and marketing service, her educational system, and the means provided by church and state for the betterment of society. She offers one thing more, of which the conditions I have attempted to describe are but the natural fruits—citizenship under the folds of the Union Jack. What this means we realize more fully to-day than any of us possibly could have done before we saw the might of Britain's manhood and resources thrown into the balance of human freedom. This, our greatest heritage, the new comer shares with the native born.

Maps and pamphlets on Saskatchewan will gladly be furnished on application to Bureau of Statistics. Dept. of Agriculture, Regina, Sask., Canada.